**SEBI investigation into share scam**

†191. SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH 'LALAN':
SHRI LAJPAT RAI:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that enquiry into the recent share scam was conducted by Security and Exchange Board of India;

(b) if so, whether it is also a fact that Government have received any interim report in this case; and

(c) if so, the persons found guilty on the basis of this report and the amout assessed to have been involved in this scam?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) SEBI has conducted a preliminary inquiry into the volatility in Banking Stocks witnessed recently.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) In the interim report no person has been held to be guilty. The amount involved has also not been indicated.

**External debt position**

192. DR. M.N. DAS:
DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the country's outstanding external debt has shot up from $98.76 billion in March 2002 to US$ 104.99 billion in December, 2002;

(b) if so, whether this will have a serious impact on the Indian economy;

(c) whether the Government are confident that the country's foreign debt position is comfortable and economy is well insulated from possible external sector shocks;

(d) if so, whether the latest status report of the Ministry of Finance has pointed out India's position as alarming; and

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(e) if so, what steps Government proposed to take to meet the situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) and (b) The external debt stock of the country stood at 105.0 billion as at end-December, 2002 against 98.76 billion at end-March, 2002. Since important external debt indicators like debt-GDP ratio, debt service to current receipts ratio and short term to total debts ratio have progressively shown improvement, a marginal increase in external debt is not expected to have any adverse impact on the Indian economy.

(c) As the external debt indicators have improved substantially over time, external debt position of the country is comfortable.

(d) and (e) No, Sir. The latest Status Report on India's External Debt points out that the incidence of external debt burden measured by the debt-GDP ratio has declined from 38.7 per cent at end-March, 1992 to 20.6 per cent at end-December, 2002, while debts service as per cent to Current Receipts declined from 30.2 per cent to 13.7 per cent in the corresponding period. Further, the short-term debt as a proporation to foreign exchange assets has declined from a high of 382.1 per cent to 5.0 per cent during the same period.

Cautious and prudent approach towards external debt management pursued in 1990 by the Government of India has helped to place India in comfortable external debt position. The policy focus has been to concentrate on concessional and less expensive fund sources, preference for longer maturity profile, and enduring vigil on build up of short-term debt, premature retirement of high cost external debt and encouragement to non-debt creating capital flows.

**Administrative control of NCB**

193. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Narcotics Control Bureau is under